

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2003

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Betty Chamberlin, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia were present. Director Sharon Yager and Phyllis Pearson (Friends of the SCC, Inc. representative) were also present. Board member Lillian Goodman was excused.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Paul reported that he and Sharon had interviewed 2 candidates for board membership—2 positions are open in May this year. The town manager will make the appointments as usual.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon presented an e-mail request from MCOA to all COAs to consider telephone calls to our representatives to advocate in opposition to projected budget cuts affecting senior interests. FY 2004 promises to be a difficult year for all of us in the State.

3. Liaison Reports:

There were no reports from the Central MA Agency on Aging or the Shrews. Comm. Part. /Children except that we may have a new liaison person from the latter next month.

Phyllis reported that the Friends had an interesting and profitable auction program recently led by local auctioneer Paul Zekos. The Friends "May Madness" calendar project is going well. Some discussion was held with regard to the Newsletter—mailing list issues are not cleared up yet and advertisers are needed to assure finances are available to continue the mailings.

Betty Neilson provided a summary report of activities at the Elder Home Care Services of Worcester, Inc., which highlights further the expected financial difficulties for seniors in FY 2004. The report is available at the COA office.

Some discussion followed concerning the Outreach position, which Betty is filling at present—it is a contractual position up for renewal at the end of this fiscal year. The board felt that we should have an open competition for next fiscal year.

4. Old Business:

Age Center—The latest draft contract between the Age Center of Worcester and the Town of Shrewsbury was the subject of a lengthy discussion—some persistent problems are of concern for the nutrition program. Corrections are a work in process. The next step proposed is to invite the Director of the Age Center to attend our next board meeting if possible.

Transportation—Hours of operation to satisfy ADA demands within RTA policies and general administration impose serious burdens on the town budget, particularly this year. The board agreed that we might have to curtail some of the accommodations which we have been making in the past.

Strategic Planning Course—Sharon reported that her professor approved the subject issues she offered last month for her report.

Computer/Mailing list issue—The basic problem with the town's MIS operation continues to impact negatively on the Newsletter function. Sharon reported that at some point in time we may have the ability to E-mail the Newsletter to seniors with that facility.

5. New Business:

Sharon reported that the latest input from EOEA regarding the Formula grant is that the rate per senior will be set at \$3.81 with the count based on the 2000 census.

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary